

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 remain pending in the application. On November 19, 2006, Applicant's representative, Ms. Holly L. Rudnick, received a phone call from the Examiner informing Ms. Rudnick that the Amendment After Final ("AAF") filed on October 24, 2006 had been received by the Examiner, but that a decision on the AAF had not yet been made by the Examiner. After receiving no further communications from the Examiner, Ms. Rudnick left the Examiner a message on December 20, 2006, requesting that the Examiner provide Ms. Rudnick with the current status of the application.

On December 21, 2006, Ms. Rudnick received a phone call from the Examiner in response to the status request in which the Examiner requested permission to perform an Examiner's Amendment to incorporate Claims 11 and 19 into Claim 1 to place the claims in condition for allowance. Although the Applicants are thankful to the Examiner for the indication that the claims would be allowable if Claims 11 and 19 were incorporated into Claim 1, the Applicants have decided to decline the Examiner's Amendment at this time because the Applicants believe that the claims as currently pending in this application are patentable.

If any further issues arise, or if the Examiner has any other suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number or email address indicated below.

Patent Application
Attorney Docket No. 10030571-1
(AGIL01-00207)

Respectfully submitted,

KEN A. NISHIMURA ET AL

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By 
Holly L. Rudnick
Registration No. 43,065

P.O. Box 670007
Dallas, Texas 75367
(Direct) (214) 387-8097
(Fax) (214) 387-7949
(Email) hrudnick@texaspatents.com